ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A postage meter machine for franking postal matter has a printer for printing a postage value stamp on the postal matter, a control unit for controlling the printing and peripheral components of the postage meter machine, and a security module for debiting postage fee data. In order to prevent manipulations, unauthorized use and unauthorized copying of control software, the control unit is authorized by multiple, automatic interrogations and handovers of a security code from the control unit to the security module. The security module is deactivated given an incorrect security code or the lack of a handover of the security code. Accounting and franking are thus no longer possible in the deactivated condition.